



Union of Concerned Scientists

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY
PRESENTED BY
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UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS
BEFORE THE
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND AIR QUALITY
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Increasing the use of renewable energy will

- Save consumers money on their energy bills,
- promote economic development, particularly in rural economies,
- Increase our energy security and
- Help clear the air we breathe.

The Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) is the best policy mechanism for reducing market barriers and stimulating the development of renewable energy resources.

The RPS is a market-based mechanism that requires utilities to gradually increase the portion of electricity produced from renewable resources such as wind, biomass, and geothermal and solar energy.

Eighteen states and the cities of Columbia, MO and Washington, DC have enacted minimum renewable energy requirements.

Studies by the Energy Information Administration, the Union of Concerned Scientists have demonstrated that a national RPS would reduce consumer energy costs.

Using the National Energy Modeling System, an August, 2004 study by the Union of Concerned Scientists estimates that a modest 10 percent by 2020 RPS would yield:

- \$41.5 billion in new capital investment;
- \$28.1 billion in total consumer energy bill savings;
- \$2.8 billion in additional property tax revenues;
- \$755 million in lease payments to farmers from wind developers, and
- 91,000 net increase of jobs.